Covering of export risks

3529. SHRI KAMAL M0RARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for covering export risks, arising out of political instabbility in the importing countries; and

.(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI jP. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b) The Export Credit Gurantee Corporation of India Limited is already providing insurance covers to Indian exporters against the risk of non-realisation of export proceeds due to occurence of the Commercial and Political risks involved in export on credit terms;

Local advisory Committee and Home Minister's advisory Committee for Chandigarh

3530. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) since when the Local Advisory Committee and the Home Minister's Advisory Committee for Chandigarh Union Territory have ceased to exist;

(b) what are the reasons for not reconstituting the aforesaid two bodies;

(c) whether Govednment propose to set up any other body there with greater involvement of the people in the Union Territory's affairs; and

(d) if so, what is Government'* thinking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Local Advisory Committee *lov* Chandigarh ceased to exist with effect from 1-4-1985 and the Home Ministers Advisory Committee for Chandigarh ceased to exist with effect from 1-5-1985.

Ob) These Committees were not revived because of the impending merger of Chandigarh with the State of Punjab.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal for setting up of any other body.

Combating of Drug Trafficking

3431. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make drug related offences non-bailable offences;

(b) if so, what are the full details thereof;

(c) what measures have been discussed during the last 2-3 months to combat drug problem; and

(d) what further steps Government have taken or propose to take to combat drug trafficking in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA); (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 most of the drug trafficking offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Phychoiropic Substances Act, 1985 are already non-bailable. However a draft Bill inter-ialia seeking to make these offences specifically non-bailable by bringing suitable amendment to the above Act is at an advanced stage of finalization.

(c) and (d) The Honourable Prime Minister has laid down broad guidelines for a new initiative to combat drug trafficking and abuse, in April. 1988. A Cabinet .Sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister, has been constituted to over-

eee and co-ordinate the working of different Ministries and take steps to intensify the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

Government have initiated various aggressive counter measures against drug trafficking which, inter alia, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders), adoption of liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers and strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional cooperation under the aegis of SAARC). Special narcotic cells have been set up in all the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country and state police organisations as well. 704 persons had been arrested for drug-related offences upto June, 1988.

Further, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance. 1988 has been promulgated by the President on 4-7-1988. Under this Ordinance, 157 detention orders have so far been issued and 130' persons have been detained in various places, thus immobilising them from indulging in illicit traffic in drugs.

Reduction in Non-Developmental Expenditure

3532. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the austerity measures introduced by Government to counter ever-growing demands on the Budget for non-developmental activities; and

(b) what has been the saving in the last financial year from such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Government are continuously making efforts to reduce non-developmental expenditure to the barest minimum. The economies effected by the austerity steps include curbing of unproductive expenditure through prioriti- sation of programmes and activities by Zero base budgeting technique, strict observance of economy in expenditure etc. Suitable instructions for contain-in expenditure to budgeted levels have also been issued and a close watch is being kept on various trends in expenditure with a view to take corrective action. These measures were intended to reduce expenditure from current levels and moderate demands for additional requirements. Among other factors these were also kept in view while fixing the Revised Estimates of last year for the various Departments which have been presented to Parliament along with Budget Estimates for the current year. Pi quantification of the impact of individual factors is not possible. The economy instructions did help to limitJ budgetary deficit last year very near to originally estimated deficit inspite of the large additional expenditure on drought relief.

Export of shrimp from Tamil Nadu

3533. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that a vast labour force is employed in marine products industry in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what are the reasons for stagnation of shrimp exports from Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether the high cost of production is partially responsible for stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF, COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHD: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Shrimp exports from Tamil Nadu have shown a slightly declining trend, mainly d"e to the decline in shrimp landings, during the last 2 years,.

(c) No, Sir.

3534. (Withdrawn).